

Bristol, December 6th & 11th.
7
1850

My dear Mr. May.

When I wrote last to you
Oct: 4th I had not then received the letter (Aug 2)
& pamphlets you were so kind as to
send to me by Mr. R. Carpenter, but I
think they were acknowledged in a letter
to Miss A. Weston? The packet was
a very acceptable one, & I repeat my
thanks for it.

I now take the opportunity of Dr
Sargents' departure to America to send
you a few lines. ^{in reply to yours of Nov: 10.} My daughter & I have
been much disappointed in losing an
expected visit from Dr. I. to which we have
been looking forward with pleasure for
a long time: but he is better employed
in ministering to the comfort of a
friend who is not very likely to need
the services of human friendship.

Mr. Armstrong sent us soon after he re:

ceived it, your letter inclosing the corres-
pondence you had with Dr. Hull. Poor
Miss Carpenter was much troubled about
it, & was greatly displeased with me for
having given you an imperfect ^{report} of what
Dr. H. did say, & "suppressing" the most
important part of his conversation!
This was rather a sharp blow, but I took
it very good temperedly. My daughter
however, had really more to do with this
matter than I had, and I shall get her
to save me more writing than I may
have strength for, by detailing the
amusing proceedings to you. Tho' I
told Miss C. I was very sorry that she had
had any pain given her, yet I cannot
regret what has occurred. Dr. Hull's
letter to her I liked.

As occasions have presented them-
selves, I have done what I could in
anti-slavery matters: indeed I may
say that more than half of the corres-
pondence we have had during my life

draft, (since the 3rd of September,) has
been upon Anti-Slavery matters, and
also, a good deal of our reading. Never before
have I had the power of reading regularly
& thoroughly, 3 weekly A.S. papers ~~as to~~
during 3 successive months, as now. Some
of my acquaintances are disposed to view
me as an authority on this question, & hence
I have more correspondence.

We have circulated a good deal my
"Reply" to the Glasgow Circular, & also the
"Conclusion" of Brown's "Description" of
his Panorama. There was an excellent
article of Mr. Lalor's in the Inquirer of
Nov 23rd upon the Fugitive Slave Bill,
a copy of which I sent to "Hon. Daniel
Webster, Marshfield, Mass. U.S.".

In last Saturday's Inquirer is a
letter of mine signed O.F. (oh. fic.)
~~which~~ setting forth the "compliment
lately paid" to the Boston Unitarians.
A copy of it goes by next Saturday's Mail
to Dr. Cannett, but I do not wish him

to know that I ordered it to be sent. I sus-
pect some of our Ministers when they
see it will acknowledge that they have
reason to be ashamed of their "Boston
Brethren."

There is to be a Meeting in London
soon on the "Hay: Anne Pitt" & Mrs
Mappin, a warm A.S. friend, has ap-
plied to me to write some suggestions
for the Meeting which she hopes to
get inserted in one of the London
daily papers, or in some religious
(orthodox) one. I have therefore
sketched, in few words, the present state
of the Slavery question, showing that
it is now a matter of conscience, and
that persons must speak out on ^{side} ~~any~~
or the other. I gave some quotations
from the N. York Independent to show
that the orthodox churches & papers
are against the "Law of the Land"
(oh! that disgusting Christian! Register)

2nd & that the English might now help
on the Cause. As measures to be done
"instead of ^{one of the} ~~the~~ "sentimental, saying
"Resolutions which characterize the
"usual A. S. documents" of the "B.
& F. A. S. Soc." I suggested, - addresses
from separate towns, or one monstrous
address ^{to the Am. nation} - remonstrances from the
religious bodies to their sect in
America. - the endeavour to make
it appear that Am^{er}. slaveholders who
may visit the Exhibition of 1851 -
are entitled to no more respect than
Borneo pirates, or professional thieves;
- words of kindness & encouragement
to the Abolitionists in the U.S. who have
brought about the present convulsion;
- & lastly a subscription for the poor
fugitives in Canada. - Whether any
of this sort will take root I know not.
a sick room is but a sorry place for
scattering abroad Antislavery grain!

My daughter has been very busy in
sending about six hundred & interesting
correspondence, among which Miss A
Weston's letter to Miss Wigham is especially
conspicuous: she has had several
copies made. I have written, at
Mr Massie's request, words of explanation
& encouragement to the Perth friends
who have been frightened by the Glasgow
circular. We have also kept Mr.
Adler in London, & the Place Vendôme
party informed of what is going on.

Do not think I am boasting of my deeds;
the truth is, that these subjects interest
me more than other things, & if I reflect
others for them, it is from inclination,
& not from sense of duty: ~~and~~ indeed
I am constantly thinking, - often with
something near to self-reproach, - that
I am employing time ~~upon~~ in a manner
of very small if not dubious utility wh.
might be devoted to objects of more

certain benefit to myself & others? I must add however to the various ways in which I have been trying to draw attention to the Slavery question, that after the receipt of your last letter, I wrote a little article on "Fugitives from Am. Slavery" for the British Mercury (which was published in it) & gave an extract from your letter, with only "Rev^d Mr —" respecting Mr. & Ellen Craft, and to day I am sending a suggestion to the Editor of Punch that he should give any Am. Slaveholders who may come to this country to the "Exhibition of 1881" a special caution not to let their curiosity tempt them to visit Barclay's & Perkins's Slavery!

I have never heard of the arrival of the Crafts in Liverpool; Box Brown has long been there. Is he thoroughly worthy? His departure has not been noticed in the Libⁿ.

W. W. Brown writes me that he is
"getting along" very well with his Pan-
He sent me papers with speeches of his
at Edinburgh, Newcastle & Shields.

I have seen no account yet of George
Thompson's intended speech at Faneuil
Hall. The Times soon got hold of the
tumult, & represented it to G. F.'s discre-

He is no favorite with the aristocracy,
& the principal supporters of the Times,
so he is sure to be run down by
that selfish journal. I was always
nervous about G. F.'s visit to you: it never
appeared to me proper for him, as a Mem-
ber of the B. Parliament, to engage in
your political discussions, & therefore

I hoped he w^d not meddle with Anti-
slavery: he may not have purposed do-
ing so at Faneuil Hall, but I can easily see
the friends of the Fug. Slave Bill would
delight in such a chance as to be able

3^d) to abuse the English, & ^{condemning} the foreign in-
ferior in their concerns, & thus lead away
public sentiment from the vital question.

My impression has been for some
time that G. I.'s resources were very li-
mited since the death of the Raja of Satara.
A "Festini orial" is being got up for him
here in a private manner - a purse.
I cannot but fear it will be a small one.
It may be, that he knows nothing of this,
& therefore please not to mention it.

I have requested my name to be put down
for £5 which is as much as I can afford.

I believe you know that G. I.'s association!
connexion is not calculated to promote
his worldly interests, if it does his domestic
comfort?

I hope to send you our Unitⁿ Alman^k
for 1851. My late Dispensary Report you
shall certainly have, & I think the
last copy of the Inquirer with the R. & F.

letter will amuse you, by showing you
the excitement going forward here about the

Pope. I have a great antipathy to Roman
Catholicism; but the Ch. of England, tho'
not so bad certainly, is by no means
mild to those ~~disbelievers~~ ^{disbelievers} in her creed
whom she is pleased to ~~commit~~ ^{sentence} to "perish
everlastingly." There is a very tame set
of Resolutions from the "Presbyterian ^{Denominational} Board"
(the Unitarians) of London at the end of
the Inquirer I purpose sending you.

I have made a great point in several
directions where I am likely to be listened
to, to say, that Mr. Russell Carpenter's
explanations of the course of Dr. Gannett
& of those Unit. Ministers who have
been systematically opposed to the Abol.
but have done nothing for Antislavery
themselves, have only tended to conform
me in the conviction ^{of the truth} of the assertions
made by the Abol. - that the Church of ^{American}
is ~~now~~ acknowledged by all A.S. parties
to be the bulwark of Slavery, & that
the Unit. Church is no exception to

to the charge: on the contrary, making
higher professions of correct views of X^{ty} &
being, in Boston at least, in a very influential
position, ~~than~~ ^{its} short-comings are more
culpable than those of other sects.

We received not long ago a pleasant
account of our Paris friend, from Miss
Weston.

I have no reason for supposing that
Sturge & Noble had anything to do with
the movement of the Glasgow ladies: it was
too insignificant for them. Pennycuik
probably had: he poor fellow, is deranged,
& I believe in confinement. "The B. & F.
A.S. Soc^y" have taken no notice of any
of my attacks upon them; but since
they have been ~~rather~~ ^{thus} sharply ~~penetrated~~ ^{rebutted}, I
will not however say in consequence of it
(~~thereby~~) the "Reporter" has a wonderful
amount of extracts from Am. & A.S.
papers. Never is there an allusion to
any members of the "Am. A.S. Soc^y" except
when they can be found fault with. ~~There~~ Geo.

Thompson's unwelcome reception at
A. Hall was of course given in the last No.
You took no unwarrantable liberty in
printing Prof. Lupton's letter to Mr. Gar
as no name was attached to it.

Wells Brown wrote me a very candid
account while he was staying at Mr.
Richardson's (he pleased to remember
that there is a Mr. R. but he does not fix
much in history, I suspect he has more
common sense of the two) of the manner
in which John Noble threw her and the
"Free Labour Produce" movement over-

board. The J. S. fraternized in London
greatly, & the "Reporter" came out bravely.
Soon, a depot for the free goods was es-
tablished in London, & of course J. S.
his friends were expected to purchase
there &c., &c. This was too near home for
J. S. it might interfere with money
better devoted to keeping up the Committee
in Broad Street, & its officers; whereupon
J. S. became shy of the matter, & wrote to
Mr. R. accordingly, & it was just in the
outburst of her indignation that J. S. was

4th/ writing to me. This good lady likes
to get ~~for~~ the Quakers & perhaps a few
other evangelical friends to purchase
only free labour cotton, & thus to in-
fluence the American Cotton Market!
And the Rev^d Mr. Garnett is come to
lecture on the subject. Brown thinks
G. will "miss it." Mrs. R. I believe has
such a narrow, sectarian horror of the
"infidel" Abolition of the Garrison school,
that she amuses herself with various
sillinesses (at least as regards any
real A.S. work) rather than help with
hand or heart the "Am. A.S. Soc." She
has nearly cut me, having found me so
unchangeable a heretic. How seldom
one finds people who, so long as the work
is done, & well done, are indifferent as
to who does it, in what way (if good)
it is done, or who has the credit of doing
it! I ^{erased} ~~erased~~ in your letter of Nov. 10th
what you said about G. I. I circumstances, be-
fore I lent it to any one. Wethersfield
of Miss Anne Weston in the Gallery at

^{after hearing of}
J. Hull ~~during~~ the disturbance on G. I. re-
captain, & when the gas was turned nearly
off, & the room in ^{plunged} semi-darkness (so
says the Times) & we pitied her dis-
appointment, tho' not at all thinking
she would need "Valerian". Our regards
to her. I fear a late letter of mine was
rather a trial to her nerves from its
fragmentary character?

I do not wish you to say anything
word to Mr. W. B. Channing for or from
me; but that you may not think I
have been unnecessarily troubling him,
I will just say, that in his life of
Dr. he describes all the portraits that
existed of his uncle, & states ~~to~~ to whom
they belong, ^{&c} ~~and being entirely~~ I purchase
^{not mentioned in the memoirs}
one under the assurance of Mr. Chap-
man that it is an original, the history
of which she gives me, ~~and which was~~
~~acquired~~ ~~eventually~~. I send this history to
Mr. C. telling him that in the first Market
this portrait would be valueless until
he ^{furnishes me with} ~~renders~~ some explanation, to which
he replies (?) "if Mrs Chapman says

it is a good likeness I maybe sure it
is so!! I ^{might} presume he considers the
portrait a copy, but wishes to keep ^{me} it
close on the subject? I mean however
to send a little paragraph to the Inquirer
stating that there is an original portrait
of D.L. in England & in my possession
here, I am sure, Mr. Chapman's
statement will not be doubted as to the
~~the~~ authenticity of the picture

The question of "Woman's Rights" never
comes up here. I do not meet with either
men or women who are aware of
the latter suffering any evils from the
present construction of society, though
I doubt, not where it to be remodelled,
improvements might be made be-
neficial to both sexes. So many
palpable evils in the world meet us
at every turn, that I am not naturally
of that frame of mind to be on the look
out for such as searching carefully for

may find out. I always regard it as a
happy arrangement of Providence
that different minds find different
work to interest & employ them.

I suppose I must not omit to
mention my health: it is better in some
important points, - my chest especially,
I am still confined to the house, & able
to do only a certain amount of home
occupation: rheumatism in ^{the} arm is
now my most pressing annoyance.

With kind wishes & regards for Mr
May, yourself & family, I am, my
dear Sir, Your sincere friend

J. B. Collins

Will you offer to Mr. Garrison my
best remembrance.